

MITCHELSTOWN RIOT (SEPTEMBER, 1887).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable the House of Commons,
dated 5 July 1888 :—*for*,

COPY "of OBSERVATIONS by Mr. *Wellington Colomb*, Assistant Inspector General of the Royal Irish Constabulary (President of the late Court of Inquiry), with regard to certain Circumstances connected with the firing of the SHOTS by which THREE MEN were Killed at *Mitchelstown*, County of *Cork*, on the 9th day of September 1887."

Mr. *Wellington Colomb* to the Under Secretary for Ireland.

WITH reference to the question as to whether Lonergan was killed at Mitchelstown by a ricochet or direct shot, no doubt remains on my mind.

He must have been struck by a ricochet shot, for I found, when I visited Mitchelstown, as president of the departmental inquiry, that it is impossible to discharge a rifle from any of the Mitchelstown police barrack windows, in a direction to strike, without ricochetting, any part of the Market-square.

The annexed three diagrams will explain this fact more clearly than any words alone can.

Diagram No. 1 shows the situation of the police barracks in Upper Cork street; it also shows part of Newmarket-square, in which Lonergan fell, and the spots marked by red crosses in the diagram where Lonergan, Casey, and Shinnick fell.

There are stone crosses let into, and level with, the ground at the spots where these poor men fell, and these crosses doubtless accurately mark the spots.

There is in Diagram No. 1 a black dotted line, which represents the extreme obliqueness of a line of fire from the barrack windows.

It will thus be seen that it is just possible to strike the spot without a ricochet shot where Shinnick and Casey fell, and quite impossible to strike otherwise than by a ricochet shot any part of the market square.

It is impossible to point a rifle, held to the shoulder, at the spot where Shinnick and Casey fell unless one leans half the body out of the window, or unless one stands back at the spot marked thus O, in Diagram No. 2. The reason why this is so may, perhaps, be understood with the help of Diagram No. 3, which is drawn to scale, and shows the length of a rifle and the breadth of the windows in Mitchelstown Police Barracks; but the reason will be at once understood thoroughly by any one who takes a gun or rifle, and tries to present that gun or rifle at any particular spot much to the right of any narrow window while he stands in the window recess.

It is just possible that Shinnick and Casey may have been struck by direct, *i.e.*, not ricochet, shots; but, if so, he who fired must either have leaned out of the window, or have stood on the spot marked O in Diagram No. 2, and therefore it appears to me most likely that Shinnick and Casey were struck by ricochet shots.

I have no reason to believe that any of the men who fired stretched the body out of the window to fire, or stood in the position marked O in Diagram No. 2, and therefore it appears to me most likely that Shinnick and Casey were struck by ricochet shots.

Early in this month, when the question as to whether the three men were killed by ricochet or direct shots arose, and I was referred to, I had another experiment tried by the district inspector at Mitchelstown. I asked him to place a man on the spot where Lonergan fell, and to ascertain whether he could see the man *through* the barrack window. He replied: "I have just examined the scene, and find that it is not possible to see a man on the spot where Lonergan fell, from the windows of the inner room" (the inner room is that from which shots were fired towards the right of the barracks) "without putting your head out through either of the windows. Looking *through* the windows, you cannot see more than a few feet beyond the spot where the other two crosses are, under the dead wall on the opposite side of the street."

(signed) W. Colomb,
Assistant Inspector General,
Royal Irish Constabulary.

28 June 1888.

No 1.

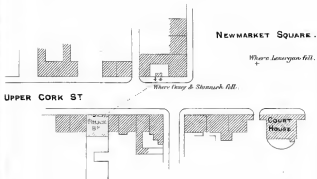
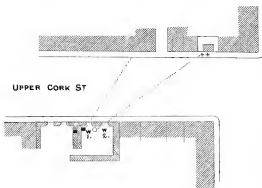


DIAGRAM showing the spots where Lonergan, Shinnick and Casey fell.

NOTE. It is not possible to see a man standing on the spot where Lonergan fell, from the Police B^x window without putting your head out of the window.
This was ascertained by experiment.

Nº 2 .



UPPER CORK ST

- • Spot where Skinnick and Casey fell.
 - W₁, W₂. Windows from which shots were fired to the right. W₁ is the window from which the shot, if fired direct, must have been fired to strike the spot where Skinnick and Casey fell. It is impossible from window W₁ to cover the spot as the dotted line of fire, starting from ■, shows.
 - . Spot, near W₁, where the nearest approach can be made to cover the place where Skinnick and Casey fell.
 - Spot near W₂. From which it is just possible to cover the place where Skinnick and Casey fell.
- (The windows are so narrow that you cannot present a rifle very obliquely when standing with your back close up against the shutter.
See diagram 3 with regard to this.)

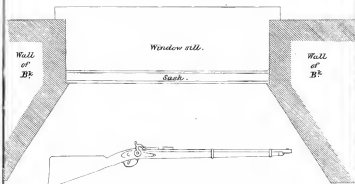
Nº 3.

PLAN OF WINDOWS (MITCHELSTOWN Bk)

FROM WHICH SHOTS WERE FIRED.

All drawn to scale from actual measurement.

Scale $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch to 1 inch.



W. Colomb.
A.I.G. R.I.C.

This diagram is in further explanation of diagram 2 as it shows accurately the length of a Rifle and the breadth of the window.

COPY of OBSERVATIONS by Mr. Wellington Cohen,
Assistant Inspector General of the Royal Irish
Constabulary (President of the late Court of In-
quiry), with regard to certain Circumstances con-
nected with the firing of the Snore by which
THREE MEN were Killed at Mitchelstown, County of
Cork, on 9 September 1887.

(Mr. Arthur Balfour.)

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